

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed February 8, 2002. In the Office Action, claims 14-16, 24, 27, 28, 30 and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have placed claims 14, 24, 27 and 30 into independent format including limitations of the base claims. In addition, claim 29 has been altered to include the limitation of claim 31. In addition, dependent claims 33-40 have been added and claims 12 and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice. The dependency of claims 13, 18-21, 23, 28 and 31 have been altered.

Claims 22-23, 25-26, 29 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and claims 12-13 and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Although such rejections are traversed in their entirety, further discussion of these rejections is not necessary in light of the placement of objected claims 14, 24, 27 and 30 into independent format and the effective placement of objected claim 31 into independent format through the amendment of claim 29. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1 12. (CANCEL)

1 13. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 14[12] further comprising a switching device
2 coupled between the electrically powered device and a power source, said switching device to
3 control power to the device, responsive to the control signals.

1 14. (Amended) An [The] apparatus [of claim 12 wherein] to monitor usage of an
2 electrically powered device, comprising:
3 a circuit coupled to the device to provide a power output of the device;
4 an analog to digital converter coupled to receive the power output and convert the same
5 to digital form; and
6 a controller to receive a user input, process the user input by establishing communication
7 with a remotely located device to request approval of a financial transaction, and generate
8 control signals in response to receiving approval, the controller includes a database of power
9 profiles of the device and receives the digital form of the power output, compares the digital
10 form of the power output to the power profiles,[said controller suspends charging] and monitors
11 the operation of the electrically powered device by suspending a charge for usage of the device if
12 the digital form of the power output indicates a halt condition.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the database of power profiles includes normal
2 operation power profiles, idle operation power profiles, and halt condition power profiles.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the controller continues to suspend charging
2 for usage of the device as long as the device is in halt condition.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the switching device is a relay.

1 18. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 14[12] wherein the circuit is a current to
2 voltage converter.

1 19. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 14[12] wherein the electrically powered
2 device is a copier.

1 20. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 14[12], wherein the electrically powered
2 device is a laser printer.

1 21. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 14[12], wherein the circuit is an ammeter.

1 22. (CANCEL)

1 23. (Amended) The method of claim 24[22], wherein the first condition is an
2 abnormal condition.

1 24. (Amended) A [The] method [of claim 23, wherein] comprising:
2 monitoring an output of an electrically powered device; and
3 comparing the output to a database of operating profiles for the electrically powered
4 device to detect a first condition and to adjust billing charges when the electrically powered
5 device is in the first condition, the database of operating profiles includes regular operating
6 profiles and abnormal operating profiles, each to denote an abnormal condition.

1 25. The method of claim 23, wherein the database of operating profiles includes a
2 plurality of power usage profiles.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein each power usage profile is a function of
2 amperage and time.

1 27. (Amended) A [The] method [of claim 26, wherein] comprising:
2 monitoring an output of an electrically powered device; and
3 comparing the output to a database of operating profiles including a plurality of power
4 usage profiles, each power usage profile being a function of amperage and time, for the
5 electrically powered device to detect an abnormal condition and to adjust billing charges when
6 the electrically powered device is experiencing the abnormal condition being [is] a paper jam.

1 28. (Amended) The method of claim 24[23], wherein the first condition is a
2 catastrophic condition.

1 29. (Amended) A software module embodied for execution by a controller, the
2 software module comprising:
3 software to monitor an output of an electrically powered device; and
4 software to compare the output to a plurality of power usage profiles for the electrically
5 powered device to detect a first condition and to adjust billing charges when the electrically
6 powered device is experiencing [in] the first condition being a paper jam.

1 30. (Amended) A[The] software module [of claim 29, wherein] embodied for
2 execution by a controller, the software module comprising:
3 software to monitor an output of an electrically powered device; and
4 software to compare the output to a plurality of power usage profiles for the electrically
5 powered device to detect a first condition and to adjust billing charges when the electrically
6 powered device is in the first condition, the electrically powered device is placed in the first
7 condition in response to an abnormal operating condition.

1 31. (Amended) The software module of claim 30[29], wherein the abnormal
2 condition is a paper jam.

1 32. The software module of claim 29, wherein each power usage profile is a function
2 of amperage and time.

1 33. (New) The software module of claim 29 further comprising software to record
2 the plurality of power usage profiles.

1 34. (New) The software module of claim 29 further comprising a user interface
2 software to enable programmability of conditions to adjust billing charges for usage of the
3 electrically powered device including the first condition.

1 35. (New) The software module of claim 29, wherein the electrically powered device
2 is a printer.

1 36. (New) The software module of claim 29, wherein the electrically powered device
2 is an appliance.

1 37. (New) The software module of claim 30 further comprising software to record
2 the plurality of power usage profiles.

1 38. (New) The software module of claim 30, wherein each power usage profile is a
2 function of amperage and time.

1 39. (New) The software module of claim 30 further comprising a user interface
2 software to enable programmability of conditions to adjust billing charges for usage of the
3 electrically powered device including the first condition.

1 40. (New) The software module of claim 30, wherein the electrically powered device
2 being one of a printer and appliance.


CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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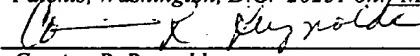


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Date